

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 27, 1999 LB 144

one question. Well, I've been listening to this debate all morning obviously, like everybody else, and one of the questions that keeps going around, maybe I missed this but if I did I apologize, but...

SENATOR BOHLKE: That's okay.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...I was gone for a little bit. But I'm trying to figure out when you're doing the testing and you're making the comparisons and, as I understand it, are you comparing us with schools in other states or with schools of different sizes. What's the...how do you make the comparisons?

SENATOR BOHLKE: That's a good...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: There are two parts to this, Senator Vrtiska. The one that would allow school districts to do multiple testing would not do a comparison really. They are looking at how they are doing with the standards and if that's improving the curriculum. It's not meant to compare. The NAEP tests that we've been talking about compares the state to other states nationally, not local districts. So there is nothing in this bill that would say how is Table Rock doing as far in comparison to Falls City. That wouldn't happen. Nothing in this bill does that. What it does do is Nebraska would be compared to how Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota is doing, and Table Rock would be able to look at whatever tests they developed in addition to the ones that they're doing, how their standards are doing, if they are improving on the tests year to year.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, just what you said, one question, but I got one more (laugh) and that has to do with how are the schools picked in this scenario for the purpose of doing the testing? How...what...what's the criteria used to determine which schools, in fact, are tested and, in other words, I realize it's random, but how do they...there has to be some criteria set up for the randomness...

SENATOR BOHLKE: There's a...